

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
MEMORANDUM

Mr. Tolson

Mr. DeLoach

Mr. Mohr

Mr. Bishop

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Mr. Rosen

1 - Mr. Malley

1 - Mr. McGowan

1 - Mr. Long

1 - Mr. Bishop

1 - Mr. Conrad

1 - Mr. Gale

1 - Mr. Sullivan

1 - Mr. Trotter

This is the investigation into the assassination of
Martin Luther King, Jr.

Based upon stops placed by New Scotland Yard as a result of
information furnished by the FBI, James Earl Ray was arrested at the
London International Airport, London, England, today, 6/8/68, at
11:18 a. m. London time (6:15 a. m. Washington, D. C., time).

Ray was traveling under a Canadian passport issued in the
name of Ramon George Sneyd. At the time of his arrest he had two
Canadian passports under this name. One had been issued at Ottawa on
4/24/68 and the other had been issued by the Canadian Embassy at
Lisbon, Portugal, on 5/16/68. Ray obtained a second passport by
claiming that his original passport had been destroyed.

Ray at the time of the arrest was carrying in his hip pocket
a fully loaded revolver. He is being detained by English authorities for
carrying a concealed weapon and for entering the country with illegal
documentation (the passport). Ray is to be arraigned in court in London
on Monday, 6/10/68, at 10:30 a. m. London time. Ray cannot be
interviewed by FBI personnel before his arraignment. Subsequent to
the arraignment he can be interviewed only if he consents to submitting
to such an interview.

The Legal Attache in London has advised that Ray's identity has
been confirmed through fingerprints.

The White House, the Department of State, Secret Service and
officials of the Department of Justice were appropriately advised of the
apprehension of Ray. Also, Public Safety Director, Frank Holloman,
of Memphis, Tennessee, was personally informed that Ray had been

ENCLOSURE

Enclosure

79 . 11' CLM:ved (12)

PERS. REC. UNIT (1-7-5)

CONTINUED - OVER

SK

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
Mr. MURKIN

apprehended and was in custody in London, England. The Canadian Embassy in Washington, D. C., and Royal Canadian Mounted Police Liaison Officer Pantry were advised. It was pointed out to the Department of State and officials of the Department that extradition proceedings would have to be initiated. It is our understanding that the Unlawful Flight to Avoid Confinement charge as well as the Civil Rights - Conspiracy charge are not extraditable offenses. The murder charge which is outstanding against Ray based on the indictment in Tennessee is an avenue for extradition.

The Crime Records Division issued a national press release on this case at 11:35 a. m., after it had been cleared with both the Deputy Attorney General and with Cliff Sessions, the Department of Justice Information Officer. Prior to that the release had been read to and approved by the Legat in London and the SACs at Atlanta, Memphis and Birmingham. The latter SACs were advised it could be released to the local press at 11:58 a. m. Extremely wide press coverage has been given to the press release, both on radio, television and in newspapers. Attached is a copy of the press release as well as the story as it appeared in the 6/8/68 issue of the Washington "Evening Star."

ACTION:

You will be kept advised of pertinent developments in this matter.

dm

R

jm

↓
OVER

ADDENDUM, ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

The Attorney General asked me to come to his office approximately 7:20 p. m. In his office were his wife, Assistant Attorney General Vinson, Assistant Attorney General Pollack, his Executive Assistant, Hal Lindenbaum and the Deputy Attorney General, Warren Christopher.

The Attorney General first congratulated the FBI and stated that this was the greatest news he had ever heard. He next went into a long song and dance on the absolute necessity of security and the avoidance of evasion of civil rights of the subject, James Earl Ray. The Attorney General asked me questions concerning the quality of our Agent personnel in London and I told him we had absolute faith and confidence in these men otherwise we would not have assigned them there. He stated he thought we should send additional men to London to assist in this case. I told him I thought this was both foolish and unnecessary. He asked me about Legal Attache Minnich's background and I provided this information for him. He asked me if the FBI had a representative in the same cell block with the subject. I told him we did not and that furthermore, inasmuch as this man was under British custody, we could not even talk to the prisoner unless he, the prisoner, agreed to interrogation. The Attorney General asked if we had a man next to the cell block. I told him we did not and that he must realize that this man was under British custody and, therefore, not the responsibility of American authorities. The Attorney General stated he would feel better if he knew the exact provisions under which security the prisoner was being maintained. I made no comment.

The Attorney General asked me if I thought it was necessary to send a Departmental representative to London. I told him I thought this was completely unnecessary if the representative would be going for the purpose of attempting to look into FBI activities. The Attorney General stated this representative would be going for the purpose of expediting legal activities in connection with the extradition of the subject. He added that the Departmental representative would also check with the British authorities to make certain there was ample security. Furthermore, to make certain that the prisoner's civil rights were being protected.

The Attorney General asked me whom I thought should be responsible for bringing the prisoner back to the United States. I told him I previously discussed this with the Director and that the Director was agreeable to the FBI escorting the prisoner back to the United States. He asked how many men would do this. I told him we would utilize three very capable men. He stated he thought we needed more. I told him I disagreed and that three men.

would be sufficient. Particularly, if the prisoner were used. The Attorney General asked the FBI whether the use of commercial transportation should be considered. He stated that military transportation would probably be better and furthermore, the plane should land at a military base, possibly near Memphis, Tennessee, so that maximum security could be afforded. The Attorney General agreed. He then called Governor Buford Ellington in Tennessee and specifically asked him to expedite extradition proceedings by immediately making a request to the President of the United States so that the White House in turn could forward this request to the British Home Secretary. The Attorney General also told Governor Ellington that he would personally feel better if Federal officers (meaning the FBI) would escort the prisoner back to the United States. Governor Ellington agreed to all terms and stated that he would comply with the wishes of the Federal Government in this matter.

The Attorney General next turned to the Deputy Attorney General and asked him if he thought a Departmental representative should be sent to England. The Deputy Attorney General replied, "Without question." The Attorney General next asked the entire group whom they thought should be sent. He ventured the personal opinion that it should either be Vinson or Pollack. There was no comment. The Attorney General then stated that Vinson should go and should leave tonight, June 8, 1968. He asked that Vinson be placed in touch with our Legal Attache. I told the Attorney General that sending Vinson was his own business, however, I would like to make absolutely certain that Vinson did nothing to upset the very excellent relationship between the FBI and Scotland Yard. I stated that Vinson under no circumstances should attempt to push Scotland Yard around by insisting on different types of security. The Attorney General repeated that Vinson would be there primarily for the purpose of expediting legal activities. The Attorney General then told Lindenbaum to have several Bureau of Prisons officials go to Memphis early Monday, June 10, 1968, for the purpose of taking a look at the county jail in Memphis so that proper security could be afforded the prisoner once he was turned over to the state authorities. (This, of course, is none of the Attorney General's business inasmuch as once the prisoner is turned over to the state he is strictly the state's responsibility.)

Upon leaving, the Attorney General told me that he would like to sit down with me within the next several days and completely go over this case. I told him that we had already provided him with reports in the matter and that these reports, plus the press release of today, covered all necessary details. He made no comment other than to commend the FBI once again and to say that hard work paid off.

...the FBI
...is suggested
...Special Agent Supervisor Wilbur J. Martindale
...be assigned this responsibility
...is approximately 6 feet 4 inches tall, is in excellent physical shape
...is currently assigned to the General
Investigative Division here at FBI Headquarters. He has an excellent
background. In the event the Director approves this recommendation, we
will have [redacted] obtain a passport and the necessary medical shots so
that he can proceed to London, England, upon instructions.

I am advising Legal Attache Minnich this afternoon, June 8, 1968,
that while he should confer with Assistant Attorney General Vinson he
should not be "bossed around" by Vinson or allow Vinson to upset any
delicate relations that we have with law enforcement authorities in England.

Sone, 6/8/68

D